

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 203080
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 SIG-03 OES-09
AGR-01 /054 R

DRAFTED BY PDC/OFDA:WKELLY/DS/AGR:FWHITEEMORE/AF/E:JVINCEN
APPROVED BY AF/E:GBEYER
AFR/EA:HJOHNSON
AFR/EA:RHYNES
IO/AGR:AMORA
PDC/OFDA:SGUTH
PDC/OFDA:CHOLMES

-----035678 110043Z /64

O P 102238Z YUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ET, KE, SU, TZ, FAO

SUBJECT: CONTROL OF DESERT LOCUST

REF: A) STATE 200577, B) ROME 13931, C) STATE 199299,
D) DAR ES SALAAM 3394, E) ADDIS ABABA 3495

1. APPRECIATE RAPID RESPONSE BY DAR ES SALAAM AND ADDIS
ABABA TO REF A. ENCOURAGED BY STRONG TANGOV SUPPORT FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 203080

IMPROVED LOCUST CONTROL OPERATIONS.

2. FACTUAL OVERVIEW - BEFORE RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS
RAISED PARA 3 REF D, FOLLOWING IS USG UNDERSTANDING OF
CURRENT LOCUST SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA AND IMPLICATIONS
FOR SURROUNDING COUNTRIES:

A) BREEDING CONDITIONS - BECAUSE OF UNUSUAL WINTER RAINS ON BOTH EAST AND WEST COASTS OF RED SEA DURING LATE 1977 AND EARLY 1978, CONDITIONS FAVOR EXTENSIVE BREEDING AND MULTIPLICATION OF DESERT LOCUSTS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN, ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. WHILE THIS UPSURGE HAS BEEN LARGELY CONTROLLED IN THE SUDAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE TWO YEMENS, VIRTUALLY NO CONTROL HAS BEEN POSSIBLE IN ERITREA, IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF ETHIOPIA, AND IN NORTHWESTERN SOMALIA, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THOSE AREAS.

B) SOMALIA - SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF FLYING SWARMS ARE NOW PRESENT IN HARGEISA/BURAO AREA OF NORTHWEST SOMALIA IN VICINITY INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE. CONTROL OF SWARMS IS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE IN HARGEISA/BURAO AREA BUT WE UNDERSTAND SEVERELY LIMITED BY EXISTING MILITARY SITUATION. AS SUMMER PROGRESSES SWARMS IN SOMALIA WILL PROBABLY MOVE EAST AND DISPERSE IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF EASTERN TIP OF HORN OF AFRICA, WHERE CONTROL IS NOT TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE. HENCE, NECESSITY FOR IMMEDIATE CONTROL OPERATIONS IN NORTHWESTERN SOMALIA.

C) MOVEMENT SOUTHWEST - WITH ADVENT OF NORTHEAST MONSOON, POSSIBLY IN SEPTEMBER, SOMALI SWARMS WILL PROBABLY REFORM AND MOVE TO SOUTHWEST WITH POSSIBILITY SOME SWARMS ESCAPING AS FAR SOUTH AS KENYA IN OCTOBER. OTHER SWARMS WILL PROBABLY START BREEDING IN SOUTHERN REACHES OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 203080

SOMALIA, WITH SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS POSSIBLY REACHING KENYA IN DECEMBER.

D) CONTROL WILL BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE WITHIN SOMALIA AS SWARMS START MOVING TO SOUTHWEST, WHICH ACTIVITY GSDR BELIEVED WILLING TO SUPPORT IF DLCO/EA IS OPERATIONALLY PREPARED.

E) ETHIOPIA - AID/W ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE ARE EXTENSIVE SWARMS IN ERITREA AND THE TRIANGLE, JIJIGA/DIRE DAWA/BORMA, AND THAT THESE SWARMS ARE NOT RPT NOT BEING CONTROLLED BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THOSE AREAS. WITH THE COMING OF THE MONSOON THESE ETHIOPIA SWARMS MAY MOVE SOUTH THROUGH OGADEN TOWARDS KENYA AND ERITREAN SWARMS WEST INTO SUDAN WITH FURTHER BREEDING AND MULTIPLICATION.

F) THE DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION FOR EAST AFRICA (DLCO/EA) HAS BASES IN ALL FOUR COUNTRIES (PLUS TANZANIA) AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ADEQUATE AMOUNTS OF APPROPRIATE PESTICIDES AT THESE BASES. AID/W AND USDA

ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT DLCO/EA IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF EIGHT ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE IN KENYA. DLCO/EA PERSONNEL ARE AWARE OF CURRENT SITUATION AND-ARE FORMULATING PLANS FOR EXPENSIVE CONTROL OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN HALF OF SOMALIA THIS FALL. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT MAXIMUM CONTROL EFFORT BE MADE IN THIS AREA TO LIMIT CROP DAMAGE AND REDUCE LOCUST SPREAD TO KENYA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

3. POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS - IT BECAME CLEAR AT JULY FAO DESERT LOCUST CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING IN ROME THAT GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES OF ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, AND DIRECTOR GENERAL (AN ETHIOPIAN) OF DLCO/EA ARE IN POLITICAL POSITIONS WHICH EFFECTIVELY PROHIBIT THEM FROM ACKNOWLEDGING ANY OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES, ESPECIALLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 203080

LACK OF ADEQUATE MANAGERIAL AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL. THEREFORE NEED FOR FOREIGN TECHNICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE NOT DISCUSSED FOR THE RECORD. (FYI - DLCO/EA HAS RECEIVED SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UK AND SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED BY BOTH UK AND US IN THE 1968 LOCUST UPSURGE END FYI).

4. DEPARTMENT AND AID/W FEEL SITUATION AS OUTLINED SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF TOP HOST GOVERNMENT LEADERS WITH PLEA FOR, AT LEAST, TEMPORARY AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES TO ALLOW FOR AIR AND GROUND LOCUST CONTROL OPERATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED WHERE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE IN INTERESTS OF REDUCING FUTURE LOCUST DAMAGE TO CROP LANDS IN THEIR OWN AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. THIS, OF COURSE, IS POSITION TAKEN BY OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN KHARTOUM LAST MONTH IN "RESOLUTION ON COMBATTING THE OUTBREAK OF DESERT LOCUSTS IN EAST AFRICAN STATES," WHICH CALLED UPON OAU IN COOPERATION WITH FAO "TO IMMEDIATELY MOBILIZE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO EQUIP THE DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION OF EAST AFRICA."

5. FOR DAR ES SALAAM: WE ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT IMMEDIATE LOCUST THREAT TO TANZANIA. WE RECOGNIZE THREAT COULD DEVELOP AT LATER DATE, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF OPERATIONS IN SOMALIA AND KENYA. BUT AS EMPHASIZED PARA 3 REF E, WE HOPE NYERERE (OR APPROPRIATE TANGOV OFFICIAL) WILL URGE PMGSE TO TAKE NEEDED CONTROL MEASURES IN ETHIOPIA.

6. FOR ADDIS ABABA: -- TELL HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL:

-- WE URGE THAT YOU TAKE WHAT STEPS YOU CAN TO PERMIT DLCO/

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 203080

EA TEAMS TO OPERATE SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY IN DIRE DAWA/
JIJIGA/BORAMA TRIANGLE, IN THE SOUTHERN OGADEN AND WHERE
POSSIBLE IN ERITREA.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THIS MUST BE A COMBINED EFFORT, INDEED
ALMOST A TEMPORARY TRUCE IN SOME AREAS, AND WE ARE,
THEREFORE, MAKING PARALELL DEMARCHES IN NEIGHBORING
CAPITALS. IN THIS REGARD WE ARE ONLY LENDING US SUPPORT TO
THE RECENT OAU RESOLUTION ON THIS ISSUE.

-- WE URGE THAT DLCO/EA BE IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT TO THE
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE LEVEL OF OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY PRIOR TO
MID-SEPTEMBER LOCUST MOVEMENT.

7. SEPARATELY, EXPLORE POSSIBILITY WITH DG DLCO/EA OF
ADVISEABILITY OF PROVIDING US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
DLCO/EA OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA THIS FALL AND
POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING OTHER NON-US ASSISTANCE TO DLCO/
EA OPERATIONS IN ETHIOPIA.

8. FOR MOGADISCIO: TELL HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL:

-- WE URGE THAT YOU TAKE WHAT STEPS YOU CAN TO PERMIT DLCO/
EA TEAMS TO OPERATE SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY IN NORTH-
WESTERN BORDER AREAS.

-- WE URGE GSDR USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE IT MAY HAVE TO
CALL FOR IMMEDIATE TRUCE IN THE BORDER AREAS OF SOMALIA AND
IN THE OGADEN.

-- WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING US
OR OTHER FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA
THIS FALL SUBJECT TO DLCO/EA AGREEMENT.

-- WE ALSO URGE GSDR TO BRING ITS INFLUENCE TO BEAR UPON
GUERRILLA FORCES ALONG SOUTHERN BORDER BALE PROVINCE TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 203080

PERMIT COMBINED GROUND AND AIR LOCUST CONTROL OPERATIONS
BY DLCO/EA THIS FALL.

9. FOR NAIROBI: YOU MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING AS APPROPRIATE.
FYI: WE HAVE REASON TO QUESTION DLCO/EA OPERATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS IN KENYA GIVEN DLCO/EA'S CURRENT MANAGERIAL

AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS. ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITY BEING
CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME BY FAO AND DONOR COMMUNITY. END
FYIL.

10. FOR KHARTOUM: YOU MAY USE POINTS ALREADY OUTLINED
PARA 4 REF A, IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING AS APPROPRIATE.

11. FOR ALL POSTS: WE DO NOT NOW KNOW ITINERARY OF
PROPOSED FAO ASSESSMENT TEAM, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED IN
SEPTTEL.
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CROP DESTRUCTION, PESTICIDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE203080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WKELLY/DS/AGR:FWHITTEMORE/AF/E:JVINCEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-0508
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808115/aaaafnfm.tel
Line Count: 239
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: cbc2f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 200577, 78 ROME 13931, 78 STATE 199299
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1584184
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970825
Subject: CONTROL OF DESERT LOCUST
TAGS: EAGR, EAID, ET, KE, SU, TZ, FAO
To: ADDIS ABABA DAR ES SALAAM MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbc2f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014